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Appln. No. 09/888,651

Amendments

In The Specification:

Page 5, replace the paragraph beginning on line 8 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Attempts to ensure that the stationary walls of the duct of the conveyor will offer relatively low resistance to sliding movement of tobacco particles therealong include the coating of such walls with a steel paneling which is coated with tungsten carbide/cobalt. This material exhibits a satisfactory resistance to wear; however, its coefficient of friction is very high so that it can affect the quality of cigarettes, e.g., in that the weights of numerous cigarettes depart considerably from an optimum or acceptable weight, and the quality of the tobacco-containing ends of the ultimate products is less than satisfactory.

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 1 and add new claim 16.

A2
1. (Amended) A conveyor for flowable particulate material of the tobacco processing industry, comprising a duct defining a path for the flowable material and having walls bounding said path for direct contact with the flowable material, at least one of said walls consisting at least in part of a ceramic material.